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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

CITRUS ACREAGE AND YIELD IN PALESTINE

The 1925 crop of oranges in Palestine continues to be estimated at 1,300,000 cases, according to a report dated October 18 from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer at Jerusalem, received in the Department of Agriculture. Shipments of the new crop will begin during November.

Previous estimates placing the acreage devoted to orange groves in Palestine at 6,818 acres, were revised in October by the Palestine Department of Agriculture and Forests to 3,039 acres, of which 2,105 lie in the Southern Circle, including the Jaffa and Gaza orange districts, and 934 acres in the Northern Circle, including the Tulkarem and Haifa orange districts.

This revised estimate alters considerably the average yield as previously estimated. On the basis of the maximum yield of 2,000,000 cases last season and the admittedly poor crop of 1,300,000 in prospect for this season, the average yield per acre would range between 162 and 249 cases per acre. The Department of Agriculture of the Government of Palestine estimates the average yield per acre at between 176 and 308 cases, the former being the yield under the old system of cultivation, and the latter yield under the new system. Under the old system of orange growing, the number of trees per acre ranged from 440 to 660. Under the new system, with its intensive irrigation, manuring etc., trees are planted 200 to 264 to the acre. The estimated percentage of groves in Palestine planted under the old and new system respectively, are:

	<u>Southern Circle</u>	<u>Northern Circle</u>
Old System	40%	67%
New System	60%	33%

Considerable activity in the preparation of land for new groves is to be noted, according to Consul Heizer, and the question of improved methods of storage and marketing of the fruit, is receiving increased attention from the trade. The probable increase in annual production of oranges, as a result of plantings during the last few years, may be estimated at about 10 000 cases per year, between now and 1930, according to the Director of Agriculture and Forests. These figures may also be increased somewhat as a result of better management of orchards and more intensive cultivation. No increase of yield can be expected before 1930 from orchards planted this year, as the trees do not produce a marketable crop before the sixth year.

